



P.B.6818 - Patentblatt 2
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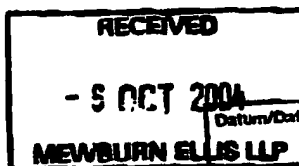
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Clas 14/11/04	INTD FOR CMD
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Zeichen/Ref./Réf. CMD/EP5894753	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent No./Brevet n° 99925874.2-1222/US9911629
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire Virologic, Inc.	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

The Search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within ONE MONTH after notification of this communication.

If the application has been filed up to 30 June 1999, the search fee in force before 01 July 1999 (EUR 888,—) or the equivalent applicable on the date of payment is payable.
This applies also to the search fees requested under Rule 46(1) EPC.
See also OJ EPO 08/1998, 405.

- ☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.
- ☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement to OJ EPO 02/1999.

REGISTERED LETTER





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**SUPPLEMENTARY
PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**
under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent
Convention

Application Number

EP 99 92 5874

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cls.)
X	WO 97/27332 A (INNOGENETICS NV ; STUYVER LIEVEN (BE); LOUWAGIE JOOST (BE); ROSSAU RUD) 31 July 1997 (1997-07-31) * page 4, line 5 - page 5, line 12 * * page 10, line 20 - line 25 * * page 13, line 26 - line 29 * * page 22, line 19 - line 22 * * tables 1,2 *	1-5	C12Q1/66 C12Q1/68 C12Q1/70 C12P19/34 C12N15/00 C12N15/64 C12N15/85 C07H21/04
D,Y	WO 97/27319 A (VIROLOGIC INC) 31 July 1997 (1997-07-31) * claims 1,5,12,28,33 * ----- -/--	1-8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cls.)
			C12Q
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION			
The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:			
see sheet B			
The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		15 September 2004	Schmitt. A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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EPO FORM 1503 (03.02.04) (04/03/04)



European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 92 5874

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (InCL6)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
D,Y	<p>DUEWEKE T J ET AL: "A MUTATION IN REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE OF BIS(HEROARYL)PIPERAZINE-RESISTANT HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS TYPE 1 THAT CONFERS INCREASED SENSITIVITY TO OTHER NONNUCLEOSIDE INHIBITORS" PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF USA, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE. WASHINGTON, US, vol. 90, May 1993 (1993-05), pages 4713-4717, XP001080115 ISSN: 0027-8424 * the whole document * * figure 2; table 1 *</p>	1-8 ✓	
Y	<p>ROMERO D L ET AL: "Targeting delavirdine/atevirdine resistant HIV-1: identification of (alkylamino)piperidine-containing bis(heteroaryl)piperazines as broad spectrum HIV-1 reverse transcriptase inhibitors." JOURNAL OF MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY. 13 SEP 1996, vol. 39, no. 19, 13 September 1996 (1996-09-13), pages 3769-3789, XP002295736 ISSN: 0022-2623 * the whole document * * table 1 *</p>	1-8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (InCL6)



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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 92 5874

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (InCL6)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
Y	BUCKHEIT R W JR ET AL: "Resistance to 1-[(2-hydroxyethoxy)methyl]-6-(phenylthio) thymine derivatives is generated by mutations at multiple sites in the HIV-1 reverse transcriptase." VIROLOGY. 20 JUN 1995, vol. 210, no. 1, 20 June 1995 (1995-06-20), pages 186-193, XP002295737 ISSN: 0042-6822 * the whole document * * tables 2-4 *	1-8	
A	FAN N ET AL: "Mechanism of resistance to U-90152S and sensitization to L-697,661 by a proline to leucine change at residue 236 of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) reverse transcriptase." FEBS LETTERS. 13 FEB 1995, vol. 359, no. 2-3, 13 February 1995 (1995-02-13), pages 233-238, XP002295738 ISSN: 0014-5793 * the whole document * * figures 3,4 *	1-8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (InCL6)
A	KANKI P J ET AL: "Virology of HIV-1 and HIV-2: implications for Africa." AIDS (LONDON, ENGLAND) 1997, vol. 11 Suppl B, 1997, pages S33-S42, XP008035289 ISSN: 0269-9370 * figure 1 *	1-8	
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European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 92 5874

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cls)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	ESNOUF R M ET AL: "Unique features in the structure of the complex between HIV-1 reverse transcriptase and the bis(heteroaryl)piperazine (BHAP) U-90152 explain resistance mutations for this nonnucleoside inhibitor." PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. 15 APR 1997, vol. 94, no. 8, 15 April 1997 (1997-04-15), pages 3984-3989, XP002295739 ISSN: 0027-8424 * the whole document *	1-8	
A	MELLORS J W ET AL: "MUTATIONS IN HIV-1 REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE AND PROTEASE ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG RESISTANCE" INTERNATIONAL ANTIVIRAL NEWS, CHURCHILL LIVINGSTONE, EDINBURGH, GB, vol. 3, 1996, pages 8-13, XP000614717 ISSN: 0965-2310 * the whole document *	1-8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cls)



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-8 (partially)

Method for assessing the effectiveness of non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase antiretroviral therapy of an HIV-infected patient comprising evaluating whether a patient plasma sample contains nucleic acid encoding HIV reverse transcriptase (HIV-RT) having a mutation at codon 236 or at codons 236 and 103, 181 or a combination thereof; and method and resistance test vector for assessing the biological effectiveness of a candidate HIV antiretroviral drug compound comprising a patient-derived segment [of reverse transcriptase] which comprises a mutation at codon 236 or at codon 236 and 103, 181 or a combination thereof.

2. claims: 1-8 (partially)

Method for assessing the effectiveness of non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase antiretroviral therapy of an HIV-infected patient comprising evaluating whether a patient plasma sample contains nucleic acid encoding HIV-RT having a mutation at codon 225 or codons 225 and 103, 181 or a combination thereof; and method and/or resistance test vector for assessing the biological effectiveness of a candidate HIV antiretroviral drug compound comprising a patient-derived segment [of reverse transcriptase] which comprises a mutation at said codons.

3. claims: 1-8 (partially)

Method for assessing the effectiveness of non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase antiretroviral therapy of an HIV-infected patient comprising evaluating whether a patient plasma sample contains nucleic acid encoding HIV-RT having a mutation at codon 190 or codons 190 and 89, 101, 103 or a combination thereof; and method and/or resistance test vector for assessing the biological effectiveness of a candidate HIV antiretroviral drug compound comprising a patient-derived segment [of reverse transcriptase] which comprises a mutation at said codons.

4. claims: 1-8 (partially)



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

Method for assessing the effectiveness of non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase antiretroviral therapy of an HIV-infected patient comprising evaluating whether a patient plasma sample contains nucleic acid encoding HIV-RT having a mutation at codon 230 or codons 230 and 181; and method and/or resistance test vector for assessing the biological effectiveness of a candidate HIV antiretroviral drug compound comprising a patient-derived segment [of reverse transcriptase] which comprises a mutation at said codons.

5. claims: 1-8 (partially)

Method for assessing the effectiveness of non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase antiretroviral therapy of an HIV-infected patient comprising evaluating whether a patient plasma sample contains nucleic acid encoding HIV-RT having a mutation at codon 188 or codons 188 and 138, 103, 100 or a combination thereof; and method and/or resistance test vector for assessing the biological effectiveness of a candidate HIV antiretroviral drug compound comprising a patient-derived segment [of reverse transcriptase] which comprises a mutation at said codons.

6. claims: 1-7 (partially)

Method for assessing the effectiveness of non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase antiretroviral therapy of an HIV-infected patient comprising evaluating whether a patient plasma sample contains nucleic acid encoding HIV-RT having a mutation at codon 181 or codons 181 and 98, 106, 227 or a combination thereof; and method and/or resistance test vector for assessing the biological effectiveness of a candidate HIV antiretroviral drug compound comprising a patient-derived segment [of reverse transcriptase] which comprises a mutation at said codon(s).

7. claims: 1-7 (partially)

Method for assessing the effectiveness of non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase antiretroviral therapy of an HIV-infected patient comprising evaluating whether a patient plasma sample contains nucleic acid encoding HIV-RT having a mutation at codon 106 or codons 106 and 227, 189 or a combination thereof; and method and/or resistance test vector for assessing the biological effectiveness of a candidate HIV antiretroviral drug compound comprising a patient-derived segment [of reverse transcriptase] which comprises a mutation at said codon(s).



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

8. claims: 1-7 (partially)

Method for assessing the effectiveness of non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase antiretroviral therapy of an HIV-infected patient comprising evaluating whether a patient plasma sample contains nucleic acid encoding HIV-RT having a mutation at codon 103 or codons 103 and 100; and method and/or resistance test vector for assessing the biological effectiveness of a candidate HIV antiretroviral drug compound comprising a patient-derived segment [of reverse transcriptase] which comprises a mutation at said codon(s).

9. claims: 6,7 (partially)

Method and resistance test vector for assessing the biological effectiveness of a candidate HIV antiretroviral drug compound comprising a patient-derived segment [of reverse transcriptase] which comprises a mutation at codon 227.

10. claims: 6,7 (partially)

Method and resistance test vector for assessing the biological effectiveness of a candidate HIV antiretroviral drug compound comprising a patient-derived segment [of reverse transcriptase] which comprises a mutation at codon 189.

11. claim: 7 (partially)

Resistance test vector for assessing the biological effectiveness of a candidate HIV antiretroviral drug compound comprising a patient-derived segment [of reverse transcriptase] which comprises a mutation at codons 103 and 101.

The single general concept that may possibly link inventions 1 to 11 listed above, as required by Rule 30 EPC, appears to be the provision of methods and/or products for assessing drug effectiveness involving HIV-RT having a mutation at a certain codon. Methods and/or products for assessing drug effectiveness involving HIV-RT having a mutation at a certain codon are already disclosed in the prior art (cf. W097/27332 A: p. 4, l. 15 - p. 5, l. 6; Tables 1 and 2; cf. Dueweke et al (1993): Table 1; Fig. 2; p. 4713, co. 2, par. 2 - p. 4714, co. 2, par. 2; cf. Romero et al (1996): Table 1; p. 3787, co. 1, par. 5 -



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

col. 2, par. 3; cf. : De Clercq (1997): Tables 4 and 5).
Therefore, the above defined single general concept lacks novelty and thus does not represent a single general inventive concept. Hence, the present application lacks unity (Art. 82 EPC).

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 92 5874

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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15-09-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9727332	A	31-07-1997	AU 719691 B2	18-05-2000
			AU 1444397 A	20-08-1997
			BR 9704637 A	09-06-1998
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			DE 69711584 T2	07-11-2002
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			JP 2000503849 T	04-04-2000
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			NZ 331376 A	27-03-2000
			PL 328068 A1	04-01-1999
			RO 118887 B1	30-12-2003
			WO 9727319 A1	31-07-1997

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